



The Old Ironsides Report

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First Iraqi Women Graduate FPS Training

**Story and photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts
1st Armored Division PAO**

BAGHDAD, Iraq—It was a simple ceremony: one guest speaker, a small audience, paper certificates. But for 14 Iraqi women, it was anything but a simple event. This ceremony, held July 22, was a huge moment in their lives: graduation from Facility Protection Service training.

"I am very happy today," one graduate said through an interpreter. "I am so thankful for the training,"

These 14 females—the first women to graduate—are part of more than 4,000 Iraqis hired to be security guards with the Facility Protection Service. Once trained, the guards will work with U.S. military forces protecting critical sites like schools, hospitals and power plants.

"This is a joint Coalition and FPS operation," said Maj. Martha Granger, 1st Armored Division's chief of operations and the guest speaker at the graduation. "Iraqis and Americans, men and women, will be working hand-in-hand to ensure the security and stability of the city of Baghdad and its vital infrastructure."

U.S. soldiers have taken on the task of training the newest FPS employees. A team of five female 1AD soldiers instructed the 14 Iraqi women.

"I was nervous at first because I didn't know what I was facing," said instructor Spc. Kelly Leonard, an intelligence analyst assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade. "But these women were very receptive, very eager to learn. This is a huge step for them."

The two-day training included hand-to-hand combat, weapons familiarization, and conducting proper vehicle and person searches. The women were also given lessons on ethics, professional conduct and personal interaction. The class concluded with a written exam.

"I was amazed," said Staff Sgt. Susan Stewart, a medic with Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion and head instructor. "I wasn't sure what to expect, but these women really impressed me. They did just great."



Staff Sgt. Susan Stewart, a medic with Company C, 47th Forward Support Battalion, 1AD, shakes a graduate's hand at a ceremony July 22, as guest speaker Maj. Granger looks on. Stewart was one of the five 1AD soldiers that trained the 14 Iraqi women.

Photo by Spc. Shauna McRoberts
1st Armored Division PAO

At the graduation ceremony, the women received Certificates of Training and were commended for their work.

"In the past month, the 1st Armored Division has hired and trained over 4,000 Iraqi people to serve as part of the Facility Protection Service," said Granger to the graduates. "However, you are the first 14 women in that large group. You should be extremely proud of yourself. You are true pioneers."

The FPS training will continue to be held on a monthly basis. The female U.S. soldiers, for one, are looking forward to their chance of working with more Iraqi women.

"I am honored to do this," said Stewart. "I hope 30 years from now I can come back and visit Iraq and it'll be a different place. I'll know I was a part of that."

NEWS

Bush Proclaims End to Saddam's Regime

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush on Wednesday hailed the deaths of Saddam Hussein's two sons as the clearest sign yet that "the former regime is gone and will not be coming back." Bush called Odai and Qusai Hussein, who were both killed on Tuesday during a firefight with U.S. forces, "two of the regime's chief henchmen ... responsible for torture, maiming and murder of countless Iraqis."

Iran Says It Holds al-Qaida Operatives

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - Iran is holding top members of the al-Qaida terror network, the intelligence minister said Wednesday, days after President Bush accused the country of harboring terrorists. Tehran has said in recent months that it has al-Qaida figures in its prisons - but Wednesday's comments were the first word that some of them held high positions in Osama bin Laden's group.

Rebels in Liberia Battle on Key Bridge

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - Rebels shelled Liberia's refugee-crowded capital and fought for control of a key bridge Wednesday, despite announcing a cease-fire considered essential for deployment of a multinational peacekeeping force to the West African nation. The fighting focused on Stockton Bridge, government officials said. If rebels take the bridge, they could control northern suburbs and the road to Liberia's main airport, and encircle the city.

James Brown Announces Marriage Break

LOS ANGELES (AP) - "Godfather of Soul" James Brown has announced his breakup from his wife, Tomi Rea Brown, with a full-page ad in the show-business trade newspaper Variety. In the July 21-27 weekly edition of the paper, the ad features a photo of the couple and their now 2-year-old son, James Joseph Brown II, smiling at Walt Disney World while posing with the costumed character Goofy.

Oddly Enough

Clinton Haters Look to Mock His Library

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - Just a few blocks from the future site of Bill Clinton's \$160 million presidential library, a couple of Clinton haters hope to open a museum devoted to mocking his presidency. "As long as he's talking, we'll have to be here trying to keep him somewhat honest and stop him from rewriting history," says John LeBoutillier, a former Republican congressman from New York. LeBoutillier and his partner, Houston businessman Richard Erickson, plan to call it the Counter-Clinton Library. They say the museum here and one planned for Washington will look at such topics as Whitewater, Monica Lewinsky, the last-minute pardons, even damaged White House furniture.

SPORTS

Hamilton, With Broken Collarbone, Wins Stage

BAYONNE, France (AP) - Riding with the pain of a broken collarbone, veteran American racer Tyler Hamilton won his first ever stage in the Tour de France on Wednesday after a brave solo breakaway effort. Lance Armstrong retained his 67-second overall lead, with four days of racing left. He finished 24th in Wednesday's stage, 1 minute 55 seconds behind Hamilton.

Sources: Sprewell, Van Horn in Trade Deal

NEW YORK (AP) - Latrell Sprewell could be on his way out of New York, with Keith Van Horn coming to take his place as part of a proposed four- or five-team trade being discussed Tuesday night, The Associated Press learned. ESPN.com reported the trade would be a four-team deal also involving Atlanta and Minnesota, with Glenn Robinson headed to Philadelphia and Terrell Brandon going to Atlanta. Sprewell would end up in Minnesota. Sources with knowledge of the trade talks who spoke on condition of anonymity told the AP the deal also involved other players, and that a fifth team was involved. One of the additional players would be Minnesota forward/center Marc Jackson, and the fifth team was believed to be the Sacramento Kings. The identities of the other players involved could not immediately be determined.

Entertainment

Chicago Police Apologize to Ice Cube

CHICAGO (AP) - The Chicago Police Department has apologized for issuing a community alert that described a man suspected in a series of sexual assaults as resembling hip-hop artist and actor Ice Cube after a local television station aired one of the rapper's videos during its evening newscast. Police are searching for a man who sexually assaulted three women in Chicago's Wicker Park neighborhood, a trendy area on the city's North Side. A police alert released Sunday described the man as a black male in his mid-20s who "resembles the popular rap artist 'Ice Cube.'" The Chicago TV station owned and operated by CBS, WBBM-TV, subsequently broadcast one of Ice Cube's videos when it reported the story Monday night. Both the police department and the TV station have since apologized.

This Day in History: **24 July, 1847**

Completing a treacherous thousand-mile exodus, an ill and exhausted Brigham Young and fellow members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints arrived in Utah's Great Salt Lake Valley. The Mormons, as they were commonly known, left their settlement in Nauvoo, Illinois, and journeyed West seeking refuge from religious persecution.